



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

April 11, 2008

Robert Ervin, Superintendent
Bangor School Department
73 Harlow Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Superintendent Ervin:

Thank you for the revised Alternative Plan that you submitted on behalf of Bangor School Department on April 1, 2008 for Department review for compliance with the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX.

I recognize how much time, effort and thoughtful work is required to complete an alternative plan and appreciate the efforts made, to date, by all those involved.

Members of my staff and I have reviewed the submission and offer the comments and notes listed below to assist you in completing the plan. If you make any substantive change(s) to any part of the plan beyond those listed below, please be sure to note those on the Updated Alternative Plan Cover Sheet Checklist, along with notation of those items that have changed per the notes contained in this response.

General Documentation (Submittal Sheet)

- All information submitted as required.

Checklist/Plan Text Items

Items Checked "Complete"

With respect to the items you checked as "complete", please note the following:

** Required Items*

Each alternative plan must provide detailed projected expenditures and cost savings in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance in accordance with P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F). Please use FY '09 budget information, or a projection of it, and remain consistent in your reporting style among the four categories. When providing the projected budget, expenditures and cost savings, you may

want to consider using the guidance offered in the Drummond Woodsum workshop materials. If you have questions, please email Karla Miller or Suzan Beaudoin at karla.miller@maine.gov or suzan.beaudoin@maine.gov for assistance.

In Section D. Transportation, the amount budgeted for bus monitors for special education students must remain in Transportation. These costs should be charged to transportation and will be used to compute the Transportation subsidy. Special education costs for subsidy purposes do not include transportation to and from school. For further guidance, please see the Frequently Asked Questions section of the *Accounting Handbook and Chart of Accounts*, pages 15 and 16.

The language in the reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F) requires that "... the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program". Please provide an assurance to that effect in the plan; Department staff will check that assurance against data that was required to be submitted to the MEDMS Financial System in August, 2007.

We will review all items on the checklist again, upon your completion of the plan.

SUBMISSION OF REVISIONS:

Please provide the additional materials to complete your plan by June 13, 2008. Please include:

- Any additional data required
- An updated Submittal Page with Signatures
- An updated Cover Sheet Checklist
- A copy of this Response from the Commissioner.

I will respond no more than 14 days after the revisions/additional materials are refiled with the Department. As you are the contact person identified on the Submittal Sheet, this response is addressed to you but with the understanding that you will share it with your school administrative unit board members.

Finally, what I am reviewing for approval is a plan (or a submission, if the plan is incomplete) which is by its very nature prospective, with steps yet to be taken or finalized; and any review comments or approval given are in relation to the elements required under P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX but not the legality of all the activities proposed. Thus, I strongly recommend that you have your own legal advisor(s) review the details of any particular transaction proposed in your plan (particularly with respect to the disposition of property, to debt, and to employee contracts/relations) as you proceed, to ensure the legality of the steps you'll be taking to implement the plan. If that review

leads to any substantive changes in any parts of your plan, please be sure to submit an amended plan to the Department for our review and our file.

Again, my sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Gendron". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education